

GN03005

PATENT

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6 are pending. Claim 5 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

No new subject matter has been added to the specification.

The Abstract was objected to and has been amended to overcome the objections.

Claims 1, 5 and 6 were objected to for informalities which have been corrected by the amendments to the claims.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in view of Kazuyuki JP 2001199076. Claims 2-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 in view of Kazuyuki. These rejections are overcome by the amendments to the claims. Specifically, the subject matter of claim 5 deemed allowable in item no 8 of the 11/25/05 Office Action has been added to independent claim 1. Hence claim 1 and all other claims dependent thereon are allowable.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon has been reviewed but is not considered material to the patentability of the invention.

No fees are due with this response. However, if an error has been made in the fee calculations, please charge any excess fees due and credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3377 under this general authorization.

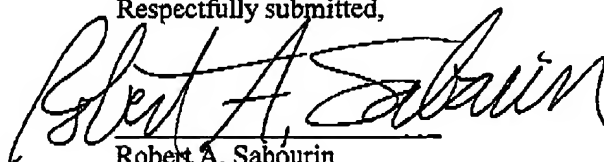
It should be noted that the above arguments are directed towards certain patentable distinctions between the claims and the prior art cited. However, the patentable distinctions between the pending claims and the prior art cited are not necessarily limited to those discussed above.

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In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, it is respectfully submitted that each rejection of the Office Action has been addressed and overcome so that this application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application, withdraw the rejections and/or objections, and pass the application to issue. Should questions arise during examination, the Examiner is welcome to contact the applicant's attorney as listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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